



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2007

Algoma U joins ORION and connects to global grid of research networks
First in Canada to offer collaborative MSc in Computer Games Technology with University of Abertay Dundee

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario – Algoma University College is plugging into the global grid of advanced research networks by joining ORION, Ontario's ultra high-speed fibre optic network dedicated exclusively to support research and education in the province. Algoma U now joins the list of Ontario postsecondary institutions enjoying enhanced distance learning capabilities and increased access to global collaboration opportunities.

"Algoma University will use ORION to expand its distance learning delivery both regionally with the Contact North/*Contact Nord* program, and around the world, as with our new collaborative MSc Computer Games Technology program with the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland," said Danny Reid, Algoma U's Divisional Director of Information Technology Services.

The new connection allows students in Sault Ste. Marie to participate remotely in classes from Scotland over a high-end videoconferencing system. The University of Abertay Dundee's computer arts division is internationally renowned and was the first in the world to offer a Master of Science degree in Computer Games Technology. Algoma U is now the first Canadian university to offer this unique program to North American students.

"ORION has also enabled us, through its VLAN service, to increase our Internet bandwidth tenfold for students and faculty," continued Danny Reid. "We look forward to using the ORION network for many more exciting projects."

Currently an affiliate college of Laurentian University, Algoma U, situated in Sault Ste. Marie, is on the path towards becoming Ontario's 20th independent university. Algoma U is the latest postsecondary institution to connect to ORION to expand its opportunities for research and education.

"We're delighted that Algoma University College has connected to the network," said ORION President/CEO Phil Baker. "The partnership will bring increased opportunities for research and learning collaborations to the Sault Ste. Marie region."

Other local institutions also connected to ORION include Sault College, which hosts ORION's equipment on campus, and the Algoma District School Board, one of 16 Ontario boards currently interconnected over the high-bandwidth network.

About Algoma University College

Algoma U, currently on the path to independence, is home to approximately 1,200 students. Offering more than 30-degree options including programs in Computer Science, Business Administration, Fine Arts, and Community Economic & Social Development, Algoma U is committed to offering a personal education experience unlike any university in Ontario. Independence will support continued growth of opportunities in Sault Ste. Marie by offering a wider array of degree programs, expanding partnerships, increasing student recruitment, and improving teaching and research capacity.

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About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario's ultra high-speed research and education network which connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching 5,800 kilometres over 21 communities throughout Ontario, ORION connects over 1.3 million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Learn more at www.orion.on.ca.

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